

In Claim 2, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 3, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 3, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 4, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 4, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 5, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 5, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 6, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 6, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 7, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 7, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

In Claim 8, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 8, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert  
--Claim--.

9. (Amended) A welding method for materials to be welded  
which are subjected to fluoride passivation treatment, comprising  
the steps of:

supplying stainless steel subjected to fluoride passivation  
treatment wherein the thickness of a fluoride passivated film in  
a prespecified range from butt end surfaces of members to be

welded[, comprising stainless steel subjected to fluoride passivation treatment,] is set to 10 nm or less[,]; and welding stainless steel [is conducted].

A3  
cont  
10. (Amended) [A]The welding method for materials to be welded which are subjected to fluoride passivation treatment in accordance with [claim]Claim 9, [wherein] further comprising the steps of:

5 immersing a region of at least 5 mm from said butt end surfaces of said materials to be welded [is immersed] in an aqueous solution containing hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen peroxide, and welding is subsequently conducted.

In Claim 11, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 11, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert --Claim--.

In Claim 12, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 12, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert --Claim--.

In Claim 13, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

In Claim 13, line 2, please delete "claim" and insert --Claim--.

A4  
14. (Amended) [A]The welding method for materials to be welded which are subjected to fluoride passivation treatment in accordance with [claim]Claim 9, [wherein] further comprising the steps of:

5 immersing a region of at least 5 mm from said butt end surfaces of said materials to be welded [is immersed] for a

period of 5 minutes or more in hot water within a range of 60 - 90°C[,]' removing a film [is removed,]; and welding is subsequently conducted.

15. (Amended) A welded product [welded] produced using [a] the welding method in accordance with [one of claims] Claim 1 [- 14].

16. (Amended) [A] The welding [fluoride passivation retreatment] method, [wherein, after conducting welding using a welding method] in accordance with [one of claims] Claim 1 [- 14], further comprising the steps of:

heating at least the welded part after welding [is heated,] and flowing a gas containing fluorine gas [flows] through the interior of said parts.

17. (Amended) A welded product, produced [wherein treatment is conducted] in accordance with the [fluoride passivation retreatment] welding method of [claim] Claim 16.

18. (New) A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 9.

19. (New) A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 10.

20. (New) A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 14.

21. (New) The welding method, in accordance with Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts.